

Testimony for HB 5915:

An Act Concerning the Practice of Classical Homeopathy

Feb 23, 2015

Dear Senator Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Jan Sopata, and currently I am in the process of completing the requirements for my CCH certification. I am whole-heartedly **in favor** of allowing qualified and trained homeopaths the opportunity to practice here in Connecticut.

I'd like to share with you the training that a nationally certified classical homeopath receives. In the big picture, there are **three components** of educational requirements that must be completed *before* applying to sit for the Certification Exam.

1. The Homeopathic section: requires a minimum of

- 500 hours of formal classroom training --covering
 - the history of homeopathy
 - the philosophy of homeopathic principles
 - the Organon of Medicine by Samuel Hahnemann
 - training in reading the material medicas
 - learning how to repertorize the main features of a case
 - working on many case studies: paper cases, video and live cases
 - the homework assignments and studying take many more hours that are not part of the 500 classroom hours.

2. The Medical Sciences section:

- includes completing an Anatomy & Physiology course—a minimum of 33 hours --either taken at an accredited college or as part of a homeopathic school curriculum.
- and a course in Pathology & Disease – minimum of 40 hours, also either from an accredited college or as part of a homeopathic school curriculum.

3. The Clinical Education section:

- 250 hours of formal observation and case-taking in an on-site clinic, under supervision of a certified homeopath.

COUNCIL FOR HOMEOPATHIC CERTIFICATION

PROMOTING HOMEOPATHIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH CERTIFICATION

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January 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

The homeopathic profession in North America has established uniform standards of training and professional certification for integrative healthcare practitioners using homeopathy to ensure access to safe, effective homeopathic care for the public.

Homeopathy has continued to exist as an 'emerging' profession in the United States; however, according to the 2007 National Health Interview Survey, which included a comprehensive survey of the use of complementary health practices by Americans, an estimated 3.9 million adults and 910,000 children used homeopathy in the previous year. (<https://nccih.nih.gov/health/homeopathy>)

In 1991, the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) was formed. Drawing from certification and licensing methodologies for major health care professions, the CHC established criteria appropriate for homeopathic practice across many health care settings. The CHC's certification credential, 'CCH', represents 'Certified in Classical Homeopathy'.

Classical homeopathy is an holistic health discipline that utilizes different criteria than allopathic medical diagnoses and treatment.

- Homeopathy is based on the Law of Similars, the patient's symptoms which indicate the remedy are the same ones that the remedy was shown to create during its proving.
- The totality of symptoms displayed by the patient forms a distinct pattern that indicates a single homeopathic remedy.
- Remedy selection is made through analysis of the case to match the symptom pattern to known proving results.
- A single remedy is given at any one time. Remedies are not given in combination.
- The minimum dose of the remedy necessary to bring about a return to health is given.

Based on these precepts the CHC's Board of Directors developed a certification process that coordinates with international standards in homeopathic credentialing. The CHC

- Establishes prerequisite training of knowledge, skills, and competence for certification, professional ethics, and continuing education for the professional practice of classical homeopathy
- Administers a rigorous examination process to certify homeopaths to this level of competence, granting the credential 'CCH' upon completion. Requirements include:
 - educational pre-requisites of 1000 hours of training / clinical work
 - 6.5 hour objective exam testing homeopathy and health sciences
 - peer-reviewed clinical casework demonstrating clinical competence
 - an interview exploring professional and ethical behavior
- Assists the public in choosing appropriately qualified homeopaths by providing a national directory of certified practitioners – www.homeopathicdirectory.com

The CHC currently requires annual recertification through continued professional development, attestation to adherence of the CHC Code of Ethics. Within the Code of Ethics, CCH practitioners are expected to keep record of a client-signed disclosure/informed consent form that clearly and accurately identifies training, credentials, skills and nature of the practitioner's work.

Sincerely,

Ann McKay RN-BC, Wn-BC, CCH

Ann McKay
President, Council for Homeopathic Certification

Comparison of Homeopathic Educational Requirements

	Nationally Certified Homeopaths (CCH)	CT Homeopathic Medical Doctors (MD)	Naturopathic Physicians (ND)*
Number of Required Classroom Hours	500	30	144
Number of Required Clinical Hours	390	90	72 if in homeopathic specialty clinic; plus other exposure in naturopathic clinic ad hoc
Number of Required Supervised Cases	10	none	none
Number of Independent Cases	5	none	none
Required Medical Education	Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology	Medical Doctor; Requirements of Section 20-10 of the General Statutes	Doctor of Naturopathy; Requirements of Section 20-34 to 42 of the General Statutes
Exam contents	<p>Section I: Philosophy</p> <p>Section II: Human Health Sciences</p> <p>Section III: Materia Medica</p> <p>Section IV: Repertory</p> <p>Section V: Case Taking</p>	<p>Section I: Foundations of Homeopathy</p> <p>Section II: Practice of Homeopathy</p>	<p>Comprehensive Board Exam that incorporates Health Sciences and Homeopathy:</p> <p>~Philosophy</p> <p>~Materia Medica</p> <p>~Repertory</p> <p>~Cases</p>
Oral Interview	YES	NO	NO
Continuing Education Requirements	20 hours per year in homeopathy (CHC requirement)	50 hours every two years in their area(s) of practice (though not specific to homeopathy) (State of CT Requirement)	15 every year (though not specific to homeopathy) (State of CT requirement)

*per University of Bridgeport Naturopathic School requirements